



KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

Project Update

This issue describes the Missouri Department of Transportation's Route 45 Location Study.

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Signal improvements and added turn lanes are examples of one approach for increasing Route 45's ability to serve the community.

Study team reviews solution strategies

The need to keep Route 45 safe and useful prompts need for study

The Missouri Department of Transportation is performing a corridor environmental/location study for Route 45 from I-435 east to Route 9 in Parkville and portions of Platte County.

The study is evaluating alternatives that address the identified purpose and need for improving Route 45: roadway capacity, system linkages, accommodation of economic development, transportation demand, safety and roadway deficiencies. It also will assess various options' environmental impacts.

Alternatives being studied

Based on the community and technical goals for improving Route 45, the study team analyzed a range of several initial alternatives:

Alternative 1 – No build

Route 45 remains as is with only normal maintenance improvements. This option, which the study team is required by federal law to consider, does not address capacity or safety.

Alternative 2 – System and demand management

Route 45 receives improvements such as traffic signal synchronization or additional turn lanes. This option does not address long-term capacity.

Alternative 3 – Improvements on existing alignment

Route 45 is expanded to four lanes by adding:

- One lane on both sides of the road; or
- Two lanes on the north side of the existing road; or
- Two lanes on the south side of the existing road.

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PROJECT TIME LINE

The Route 45 Location Study is scheduled to be completed in 2006. Here are some of the study's key events.

Spring, 2006: Conduct initial research and analysis of corridor needs.

May 25, 2006: Public meeting to examine existing corridor conditions.

Early Summer, 2006: Develop and evaluate potential alternatives.

Late Summer, 2006: Determine potential alignment of roadway.

Fall, 2006: Prepare final documentation and alternatives.

Meeting produces strong turnout

"Because Route 45 is a high-priority project for MoDOT, our goal is to find the right balance between good planning and moving this project forward as quickly as possible."

Allan Zafft

MoDOT Transportation Planning Coordinator

More than 120 people attended the public meeting to learn more and be heard regarding the future of Route 45.

The existing conditions public meeting, held May 25 at the Platte County Community Center South, offered attendees the opportunity to learn more about the study from project team members and to provide their input on the future of Route 45.

Most public input from the meeting centered around four themes:

- Identification of specific traffic control and safety issues;
- Awareness of upcoming community development projects;
- Concerns about construction time line and safety; and
- Desire to include pedestrian and bicycle trails.

Attendees said they recognize that improvements often mean inconvenience during construction, but they also acknowledged that improvements need to be done as soon as possible. Most said they were glad MoDOT held the meeting, and want to be updated on the project as it moves forward.

How meeting feedback will be used

Comments and input from the meeting are being factored into the review of the initial alternatives (see first and last pages) to help determine a preferred alternative.

If you were unable to attend the meeting

Many of the materials used at the May 25 meeting, including three exhibit boards showing traffic and accident data for Route 45, can be found at the project web site:

www.modot.org/kansascity/major_projects/Route45.htm

Please join us at the next Route 45 Location Study public meeting, where you will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed reasonable alternatives. The open-house meeting will be held 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, September 7, in the Generational Room of the Platte County Community Center South, 8875 Clark Ave., Parkville, Mo.



Attendees at the May 25 public meeting discuss corridor issues with MoDOT's Route 45 Location Study Project Manager Allan Zafft.

prepare environmental
on; reasonable
public meeting.

December, 2006: Study
recommendations
approved.

January, 2007: MoDOT begins
design of Route 45 between
Routes 9 and K.

Winter, 2008: Design
public hearing.

Summer, 2010: Construction
begins on Route 45
between Routes 9 and K.

Improve Route 45 now, survey shows

Most believe Route 45 won't meet their
future transportation needs.

The Route 45 community has definite
opinions regarding how this important
roadway should function.

They made that clear in an early May survey
of 350 area property owners and others
designed to help MoDOT understand
community needs about Route 45-related
access, mobility and safety.

More than one-third of recipients returned
their surveys (typically, these surveys spark a
return rate of 10 percent or less). Most believe
Route 45 should:

- Be improved;
- Meet their current and future needs;
- Provide better access to Route 45
businesses;
- Preserve property rights and existing
community values when improved; and
- Be made safer.

Survey responses are incorporated into the
decision process as the study team refines and
develops a preferred alternative. You can see
the survey results and other project materials at:

www.modot.org/kansascity/major_projects/Route45.htm

The Route 45 Location Study Area

The Route 45 Location Study is examining current and future transportation
needs on Route 45 from Interstate 435 east to Route 9.



The Route 45 Location Study is being conducted by the Missouri Department of Transportation with the assistance of a consultant team led by URS Corporation and including George Butler Associates and DeMent O'Flaherty and Collier Communications.



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**Join us at the Route 45 Location
Study open-house meeting from
4-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, at the
Generational Room, Platte County
Community Center South, 8875
Clark Ave., Parkville, Mo.**

Study team reviews strategies

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Alternative 4 – New parallel facility to the north

Route 45 is supplemented by building a new four-lane road along the northern edge of the study area, with the existing Route 45 providing access during construction.

Alternative 5 – New parallel facility to the south

Route 45 is supplemented by building a new four-lane road along the southern edge of the study area, with the existing Route 45 providing access during construction.

Going forward

Based on the analysis of the initial alternatives, Alternative 3 is being carried forward as a reasonable alternative for further analysis. Depending upon constraints along the existing route, the study team will develop several variations of Alternative 3 based upon system and demand management elements in order to ultimately arrive at a preferred alternative for improvement of the existing route.



Study team members will be present to talk with you regarding alternatives for improving Route 45 at our open-house meeting to be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, September 7, at the Platte County Community Center South, 8875 Clark Ave., Parkville, Mo. These alternatives were evaluated in terms of how effectively they satisfy the project's purpose and need, and in terms of engineering criteria, social and economic impacts, environmental impacts and community input. In addition to these alternatives, preliminary access management concepts will be touched upon during this meeting. However, a detailed design will not be ready for review and comment until the next phase of the project beginning in 2007.